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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,099	07/10/2003	Bob McGuire	15912/09031	1985

27530 7590 11/10/2004

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EXAMINER
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THOMPSON, KENNETH L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/617,099

Applicant(s)

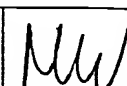
MCGUIRE ET AL.

Examiner

Kenn Thompson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 7 and 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 and 8-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10 July 03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dallas, U.S. 6,364,024.

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Dallas discloses in figures 1-11 an adapter pin (28) having a hollow cylindrical body central passage, a top nipple section thread (at 43), a bottom nipple section bottom pin thread (50); a lockdown flange (16) having box-threaded bottom end (at 43) receiving the top nipple section of the adapter pin and threadedly engaging the top pin thread thereof; and lockdown nut (18) rotatably supported an annular shoulder below the top end, the lockdown nut having box thread (24) engaging a pin thread on the outer wall of a top end of a double-locking casing mandrel (20).

Regarding claim 11, Dallas discloses a retainer flange (74,16) having threaded bores (86) spaced circumferentially about a box-threaded axial passage (32), wherein the box-threaded axial passage is adapted to engage the pin thread on the outer wall, and is of a diameter equal to the diameter of the top outer wall of the casing mandrel (20).

Regarding claim 22, Dallas discloses threadedly connecting a retainer flange (16) to a pin thread on the outer wall of a casing mandrel (28); mounting stimulation equipment (136) having

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an internal diameter at least as large as that of the casing mandrel and pumping high pressure stimulation fluids through well stimulation equipment into the casing well.

As to claim 23, Dallas discloses a blow out preventer (126).

As to claim 24, Dallas discloses a mounting a blow out preventer (126) to the retainer flange (16) and mounting a BOP protector (10) to the BOP and stroking the BOP protector through the BOP, and packing off the BOP protector against a secondary seal bore of the casing mandrel (col. 11, lines 45-60).

As to claim 25, Dallas discloses a high pressure valve (136) on the BOP.

As to claim 26, Dallas discloses the high pressure valve on the retainer flange (16) and high pressure fracturing lines (86) connected to the valves.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duhn et al., U.S. 5,611,398.

Regarding claim 2, Duhn et al. discloses in figures 1 and 2, an adapter pin (16) comprising a hollow cylindrical body having a central passage, a top nipple section with a pin-threaded top end, and a bottom nipple section with a pin-threaded bottom end; a retainer flange (10) comprising an annular flange having a top, and a box-threaded (15) axial passage for engaging a pin thread on an outer wall of a top end of the casing mandrel.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 12-21 are allowed.

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Claims 3-6, 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including a sealing nipple located between the top and bottom pin threads on adapter pin.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including an annular seal retainer for retaining an elastomeric seal that seals against a smooth cylindrical wall of a sealing nipple on a top end of the adapter pin.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including sealingly connecting to the casing mandrel an adapter pin having a hollow cylindrical body with an internal diameter at least as large as that of a casing supported the casing mandrel by thread-engaging of a pin-threaded nipple section of adapter pin with respect to a top end box thread of the casing mandrel; threadedly connecting retainer flange to a pin thread on an outer wall a top end of the casing mandrel; securing well stimulation equipment to the casing mandrel using a pin-threaded top end of the adapter pin, and box threaded bores in a top surface of the retainer flange for receiving flange bolts.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenn Thompson whose telephone number is 703 306-5760. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J Bagnell can be reached on 703 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

1 November 2004



Kenn Thompson  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3672